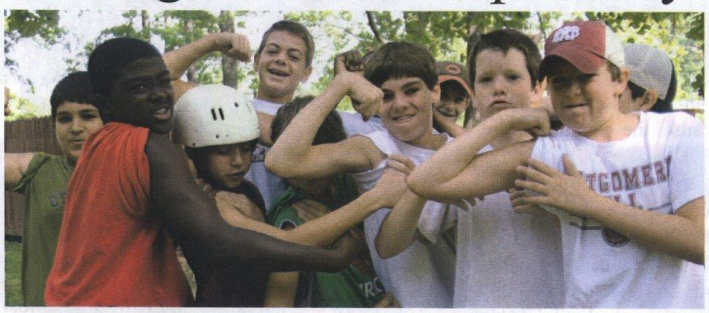
TOP OF THE HILL

Volume 14 | Issue 1 | October 26, 2008

Facing Fears, Having Fun at Camp Laney

by Davis Lovvorn

On Wednesday, September 17, the seventh graders went to Mentone, Alabama, for a three-day adventure at Camp Laney, an awesome summer camp located on top of Lookout Mountain. There, students were taught to face their fears by experiencing a set of high ropes courses. A group of hardworking men and women from Higher Ground helped the seventh graders face these fears. Each night, over one hundred tireless students stayed in ten cabins held together with nails and a whole lot of staples. Here are some of the highlights:



These same guys were quaking on the Pamper Pole!

Kamikaze

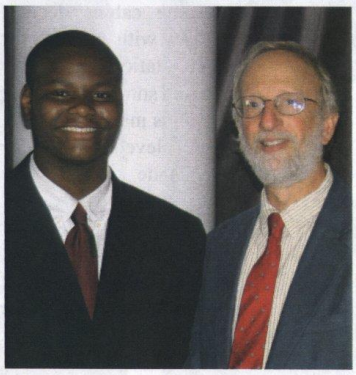
A Kamikaze pilot was a Japanese pilot in World War II who was involved in a mission in which he crashed the plane into its target. In other words, doing this rope course is just asking for trouble! Walking across the ropes and logs was crazy and really scary. I couldn't help but laugh at Chase Mathews, who did the splits when he was walking across the wobbly ropes. When I looked down as I was on the swing, I got so freaked out by the height that my eyes started to get wet. As I was swinging up and down and back and forth across the giant swing, I realized something: "This is awesome!" I screamed. I then realized something else. I proceeded to shout, "I have to go to the bathroom!" It seemed all of those G-Forces were acting on my

continued on page 2

An Inspiring Memoir

by Hamilton Millwee and Zach Waterman

On September 23, author Richard Glaubman recalled the lessons that he learned from interviewing a man who had seen over a century of American history through African-American eyes. Mr. Glaubman, who spoke at assembly and to several English classes, had interviewed George Dawson for the book *Life Is So Good*, one of the eighth grade's required summer reading books.



Brandon Key introduced Richard Glaubman at assembly.

Mr. Glaubman was inspired by an article his wife had shown him that recognized a ninety-eight-year-old man's learning to read. He decided to seek out this man for an interview. Mr. Glaubman expected a bitter and angry man due to all the prejudice he must have endured, but Mr. Dawson turned out to be one of the most understanding and compassionate people Mr. Glaubman had ever met. Mr. Glaubman had never published although he had made a few

continued on page 4

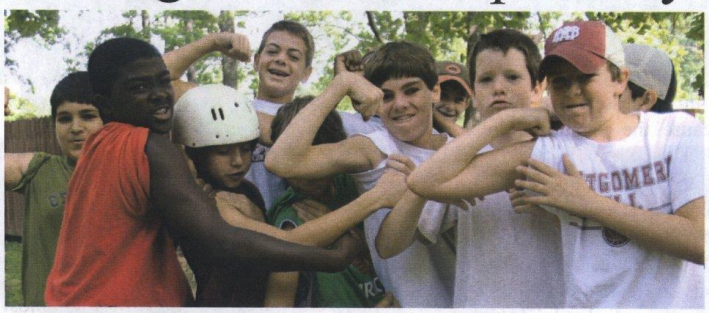
TOP OF THE HILL

Volume 14 | Issue 1 | October 26, 2008

Facing Fears, Having Fun at Camp Laney

by Davis Lovvorn

On Wednesday, September 17, the seventh graders went to Mentone, Alabama, for a three-day adventure at Camp Laney, an awesome summer camp located on top of Lookout Mountain. There, students were taught to face their fears by experiencing a set of high ropes courses. A group of hardworking men and women from Higher Ground helped the seventh graders face these fears. Each night, over one hundred tireless students stayed in ten cabins held together with nails and a whole lot of staples. Here are some of the highlights:



These same guys were quaking on the Pamper Pole!

Kamikaze

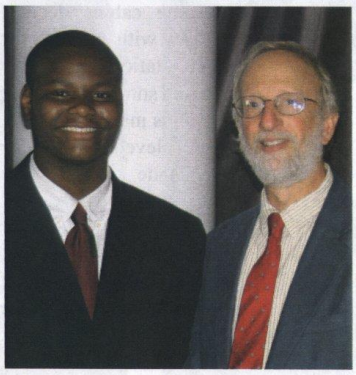
A Kamikaze pilot was a Japanese pilot in World War II who was involved in a mission in which he crashed the plane into its target. In other words, doing this rope course is just asking for trouble! Walking across the ropes and logs was crazy and really scary. I couldn't help but laugh at Chase Mathews, who did the splits when he was walking across the wobbly ropes. When I looked down as I was on the swing, I got so freaked out by the height that my eyes started to get wet. As I was swinging up and down and back and forth across the giant swing, I realized something: "This is awesome!" I screamed. I then realized something else. I proceeded to shout, "I have to go to the bathroom!" It seemed all of those G-Forces were acting on my

continued on page 2

An Inspiring Memoir

by Hamilton Millwee and Zach Waterman

On September 23, author Richard Glaubman recalled the lessons that he learned from interviewing a man who had seen over a century of American history through African-American eyes. Mr. Glaubman, who spoke at assembly and to several English classes, had interviewed George Dawson for the book *Life Is So Good*, one of the eighth grade's required summer reading books.



Brandon Key introduced Richard Glaubman at assembly.

Mr. Glaubman was inspired by an article his wife had shown him that recognized a ninety-eight-year-old man's learning to read. He decided to seek out this man for an interview. Mr. Glaubman expected a bitter and angry man due to all the prejudice he must have endured, but Mr. Dawson turned out to be one of the most understanding and compassionate people Mr. Glaubman had ever met. Mr. Glaubman had never published although he had made a few

continued on page 4

CAMP LANEY

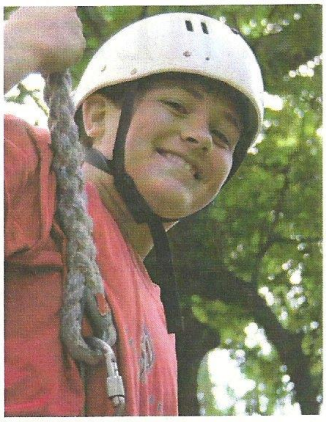
bladder pretty hard. All in all, it's pretty freaky when you're on the Kamikaze, but when you're done, all you want to do is repeat the thrill again and again.

Pamper Pole

Most people agree that the Pamper Pole was the scariest and most intimidating ropes course at Camp Laney. You have no idea how kind the people of Higher Ground were to strap us in harnesses. We felt so grateful because the Pamper Pole, a 30-foot tall telephone pole that is as thick as a thumbnail and about as unstable and wobbly as a twig in a hurricane, could cause you to break a lot of bones if you fell off without the proper equipment. I was so freaked out when I got to the top of the pole that I didn't try to go for the trapeze; I jumped down and I was pleased that the two minutes of terror I had just experienced were over. It seemed everyone else I talked to was just as freaked out by the experience, but we thought it was amazing nonetheless, and we were sad to leave it behind.

Battleball

Pegging other people with dodgeballs. . .what else could you ask for? At around 7:00 PM, everyone walked over to Laney's gym for an intense game of battleball. It was awesome to see the shock of an opponent after he got hit in the face. Some of the teachers were crazy enough to join us. It was funny to see Mr. Harvey fall back after being hit hard by a fellow camper. After the crazy excitement of two hours of total annihilation, some of the campers lost their voices from all the screaming. Sam Weien's voice still hasn't returned. Everyone was exhausted after the conflict, and we were grateful to hit the hay.

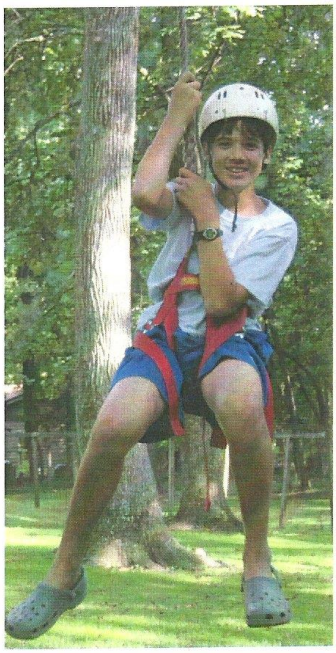


Alex Bars

Boat Race

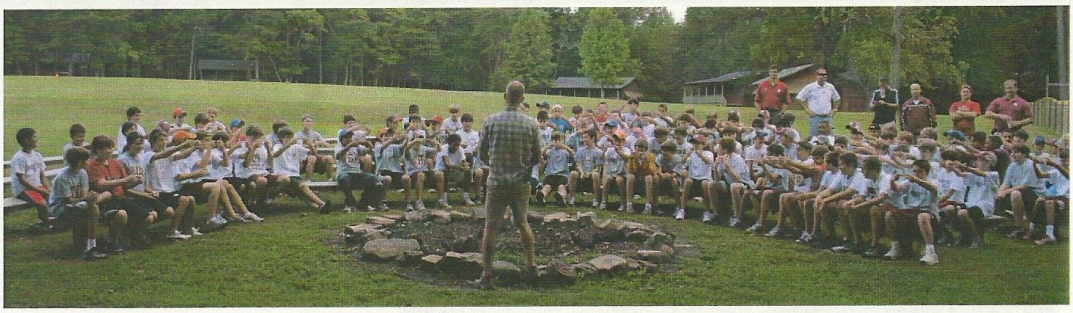
Probably one of the most exciting and most competitive events was the boat race. This competition took place on Friday and was the perfect way to finish our time at Camp Laney. The object of the race is to create the best boat to get the most people across the river and back. Campers had an hour and a half to create the best boat possible. Cabins worked hard, knowing that there were rumors that the winning cabin got a pizza party. Crazy designs were created. Some cabins decided to make air bubbles with their plastic wrapping to aid in flotation. The bubble plan didn't work, and some cabins were doomed. Other cabins made big boxes, while other, more clever cabins, like mine, Cabin 12, made small canoes. Time seemed to pass quickly, and before we knew it, it was time for the race. Some boats were left unfinished. Finished or not, all of the pieces of junk were toted by the campers down to the river to begin the race. Some boats sank immediately, and by the third round, half of the boats were swimming with the fishes. Amused crowds roared with laughter at their soaked counterparts. Cabin 12's boat was the fastest, thanks to the ingenious canoe tip design of Tyler Forcum. That turned out to be a deciding factor in the race. By the end of the event, Cabins 7 and 12 were the only boats left, with Cabin 12 on their ninth run and Cabin 7 on their sixth attempt. Finally Cabin 7 sank, and Cabin 12 emerged victorious, thanks to the great design of Tyler and Hayes Cooper. The boat race was awesome and was a lot of people's favorite event.

All in all, Camp Laney was a terrific experience. Everyone was sad to leave. From the Kamikaze to the boat races, everyone had a memorable time on Lookout Mountain.

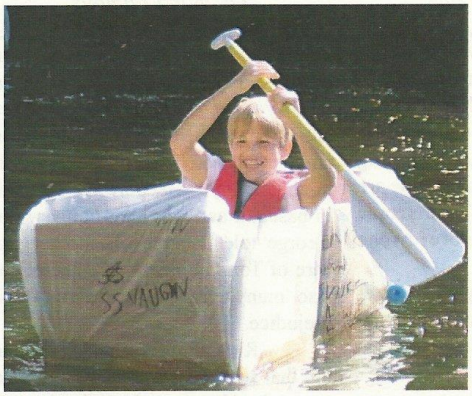


Henry's just hanging around.

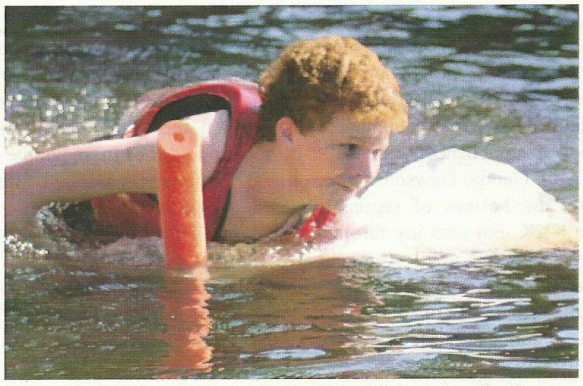
CAMP LANEY



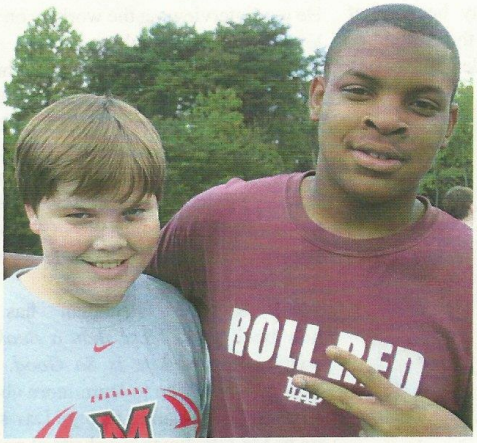
Higher Ground prepares us for our day on the ropes.



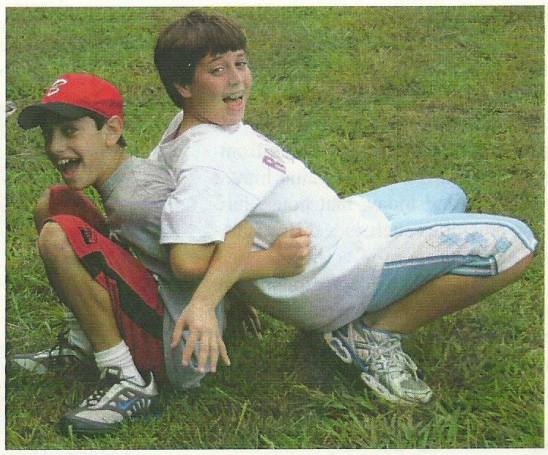
Our illustrious reporter: Davis Lovvorn



Houston Morris is the first to take a plunge for the team.



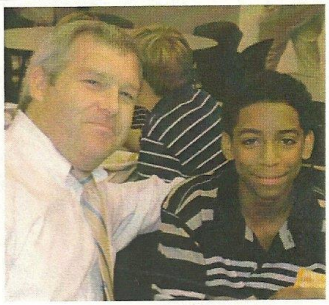
Bates and Jashon dominated the ropes.



Josh and Caleb practice team work.

Let the new year begin!

New seventh graders dine with Mr. McGugin, Class of 1996.



Mr. Cooper and Diamond Famous

attempts to do so. He told George that he was probably not the person to write the biography, but George Dawson believed in Mr. Glaubman, and the book was published.

George Dawson witnessed not only the horrors of segregation and the KKK, but also joy through Jackie Robinson, the Civil Rights era, and learning to read at the age of ninety-eight. Richard Glaubman had these observations about interviewing a man with such a legacy:

Q) Do you think *Life Is So Good* has changed the lives of Mr. Dawson's children and grandchildren?

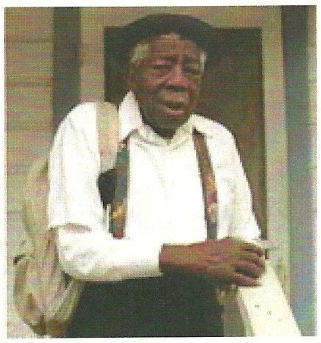
A) Yes. One example is that before I wrote the book, George Dawson lived in a house without any indoor plumbing, running water, or appliances. Part of the proceeds from the book went towards building him a new house, and today, that house has all the amenities such as a dishwasher and a stove.

Q) What correspondence have you received from others who were inspired by Mr. Dawson to do something they might not otherwise have done?

A) I have heard from many people who said that they have been influenced by George. All of them said that they were following a dream they had for years. One man went to South America to tutor children to read. Another man took a cross country bike trip. All of these people had one thing in common: a dream. Many people are inspired but never act. These people did. Everyone dreams, but not everyone acts on those dreams.

Q) Were there any stories that Mr. Dawson told you that for some reason you decided not to include in the book?

A) There were many stories that I couldn't put into the book. These omissions were not only because of the deadline, but also the length of the story. I had no idea that when publishers mean deadline, they mean deadline. One of the stories that I had to leave out because the book was already published was that George had another brother, Tommy, the wild child in the family. He played centerfield in baseball and was shot but survived. George told me that his mother took care of Tommy after that. There were also many other stories about racial prejudice.



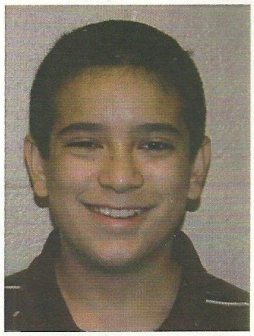
George Dawson heads off to school at age 98!

Richard Glaubman pointed out that what he wrote had rarely been covered. He was interviewing the grandson of slaves, not the land owner. He was interviewing the workers on the levees, not the steamboat captain. He said that his book would shed an entire new light on history. He stated that history is usually written by the victors in war. He was so interested in writing down this story because he knew that if it wasn't written down, it would never be recorded. As it turned out, George Dawson died at age 103, a few years after the book was published.

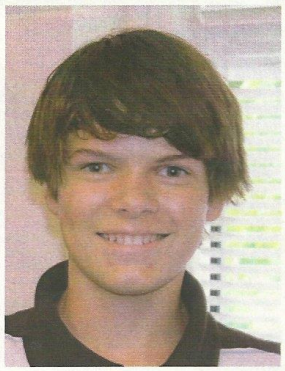
Richard Glaubman has a new book titled *More than a Book*, a continuation of *Life Is So Good*. If anyone would like to learn more about Richard Glaubman or George Dawson, go to Mr. Glaubman's website at www.RichardGlaubman.com.

WELCOME

New Eighth Graders and Faculty

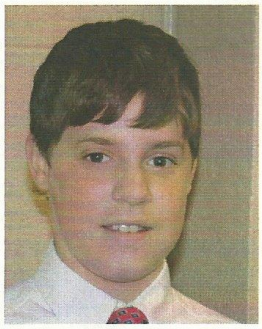


Galen Bullington

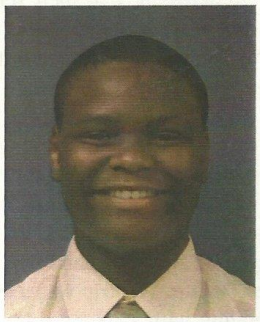


Mitchell Flautt

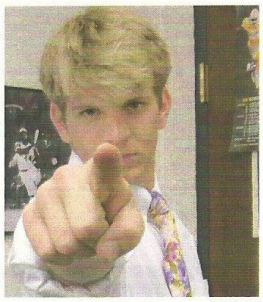
Clay Ramsey



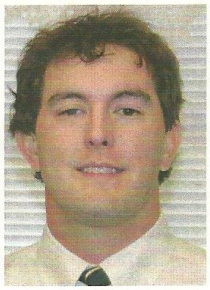
Cole Harrison



Brandon Key

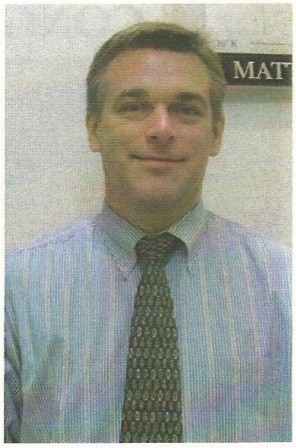


Mr. Cole Eppstein



Mr. Matthew Jacques

Ms. Candy Vaughan



Mr. Chris Bullington

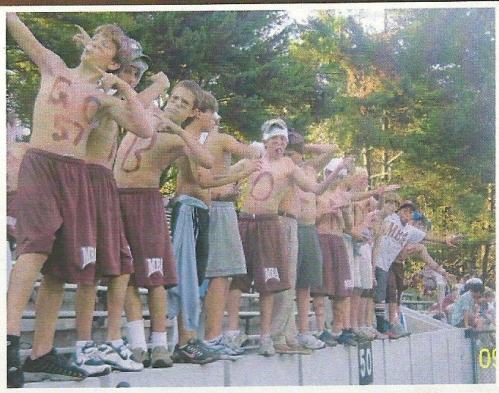
ON THE HILL

Go Varsity!

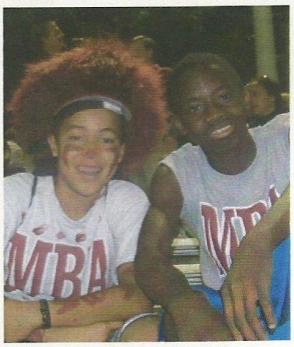
by Parrish Preston

On September 5th, armed with Snickers and Sprites, the MBA eighth graders loaded up on chartered buses to watch the Big Red play at Baylor. To pass the time, they watched the movies *Indiana Jones* and *Napoleon Dynamite*. Once the buses reached Baylor, many students showed their school spirit by painting their bodies and spraying their hair. The game itself was very exciting and intense.

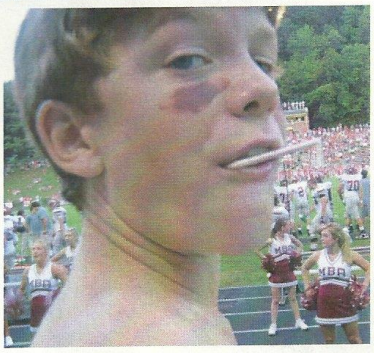
The Big Red found the end zone twice from a Dent Shillinglaw carry and a Spencer Wise pass to Fitz Lassing in the fourth. With three interceptions from the Big Red defense, MBA had a sound win, 14-3, over Baylor. The trip was a lot of fun, ending with a sleepy ride back to Nashville.



Bare-chested eighth graders show their support with complex choreography!

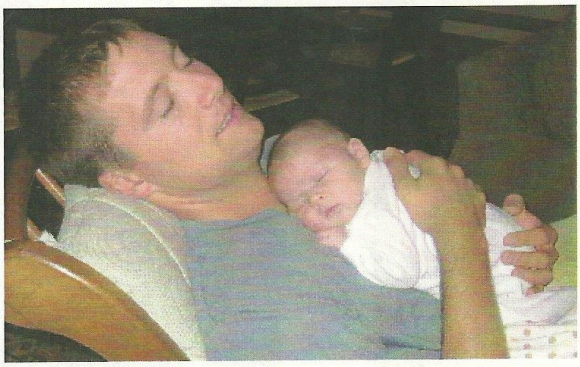


Dallas Gibson and Paul Moore

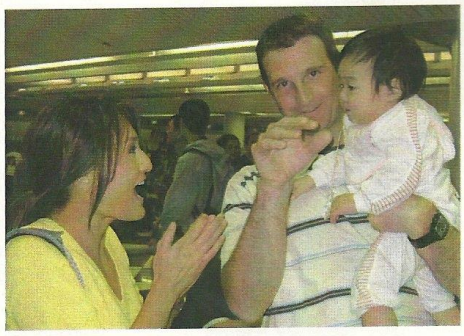


Collin Caldwell

CONGRATS TO COACH-DADS!

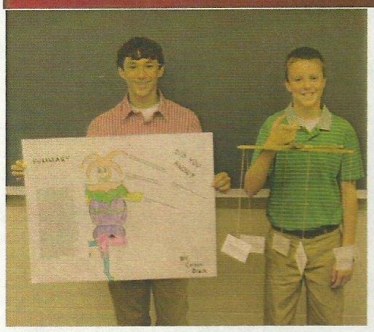


Mr. McGugin enjoys nap time with his new son, Daniel George.

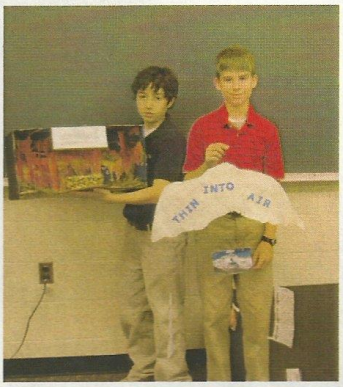


The Anglins welcome their new daughter, Myla, from Korea.

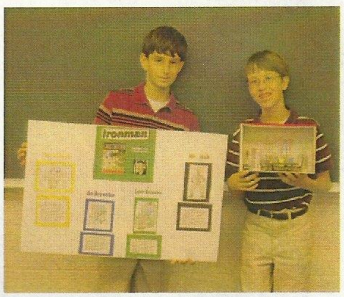
7th GRADE PROJECTS



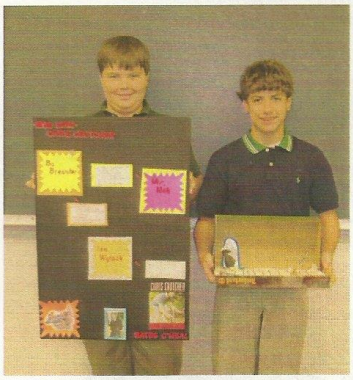
Colton Black and Will Singer



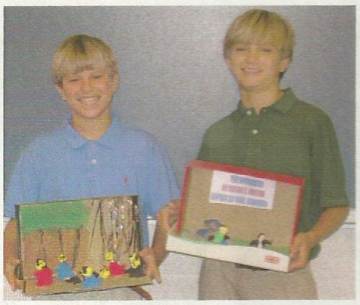
Strack Azar and Charlie Hawkins



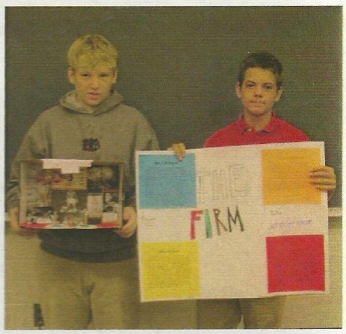
Wesley Jenkins
and Brandon Carpenter



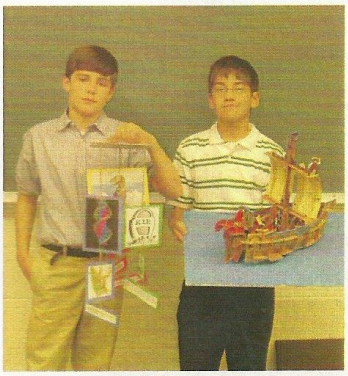
Bates O'Neal and Carson Shaw



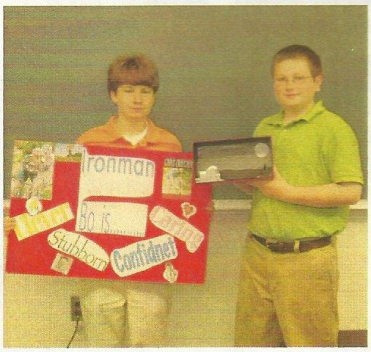
Davis Lovvorn and Paul Garrard



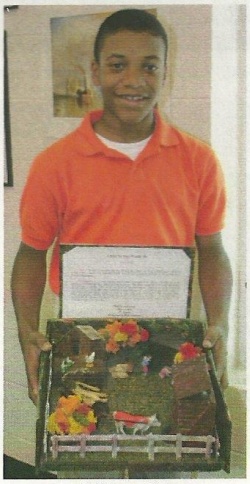
Garrett Miler
and Montgomery Turner



David Harrison
and German Martinex

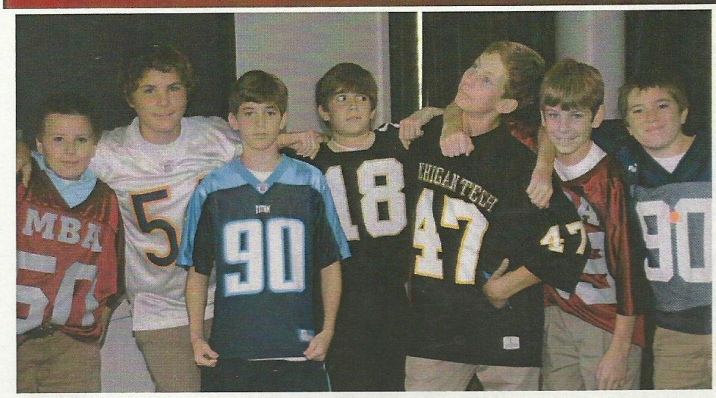


Stuart Singleton and Joe Werthan

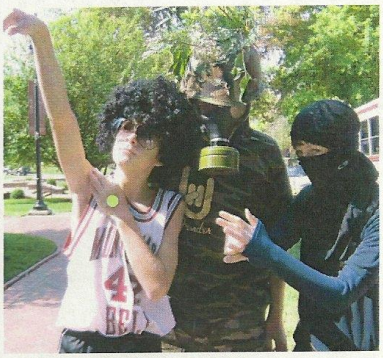


Miles Curry

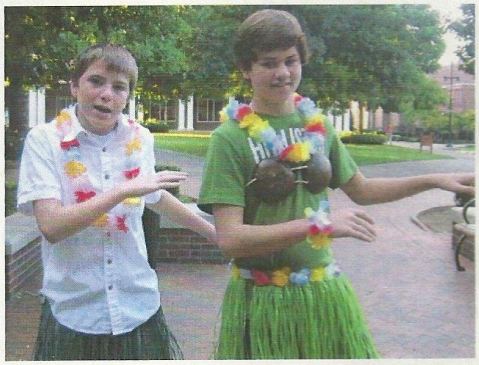
SPIRIT WEEK



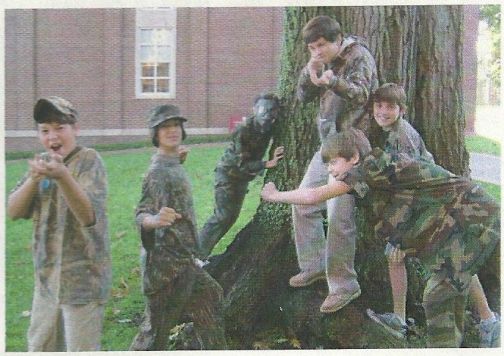
MBA, Titans, and assorted fans show their spirit.



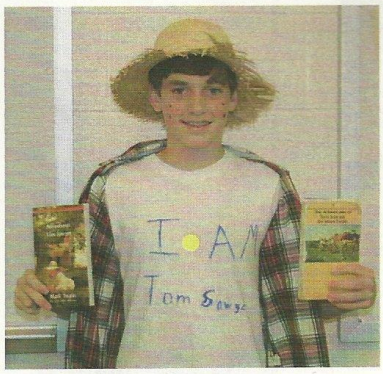
Do you think teachers have trouble checking roll on Spirit Day?



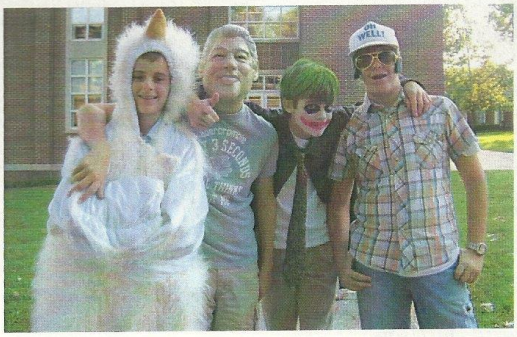
Hunter has the skirt, but Reed has the coconuts!



The courtyard becomes a battlefield on Camo Day.

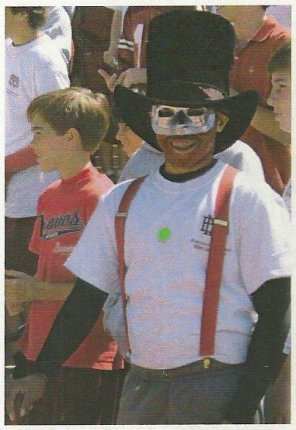


John Garrett is ready for Spirit Day and English.

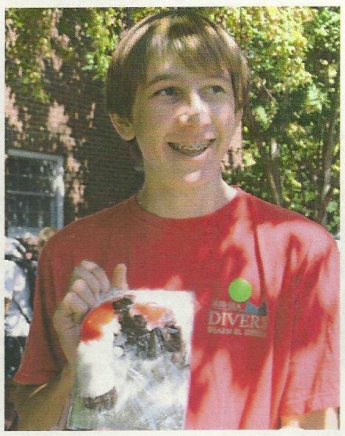


Chickens, former Presidents, Jokers, and redneck truckers really can be friends.

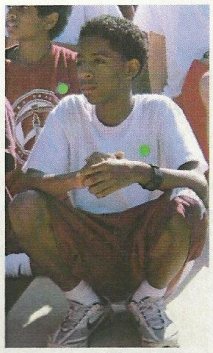
HOMECOMING



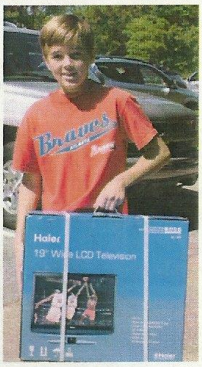
Dallas Gibson



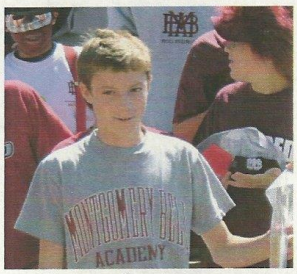
Drew Davis



Diamond Famous

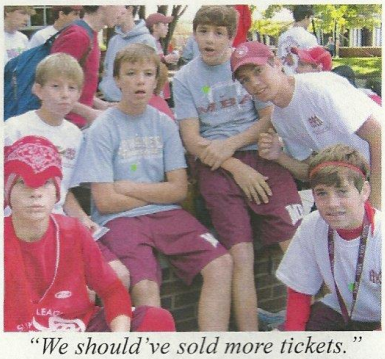


Jack Rhodes

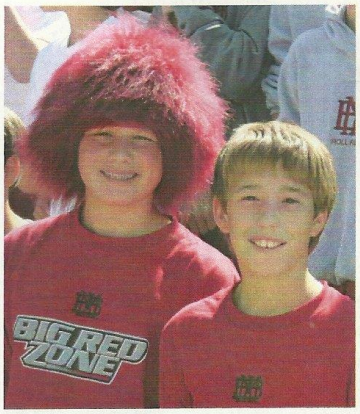


Christopher Briggs

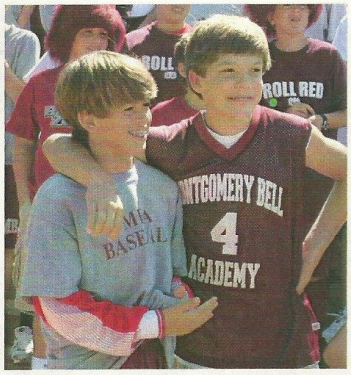
Joe Richardson and Brady McDonald



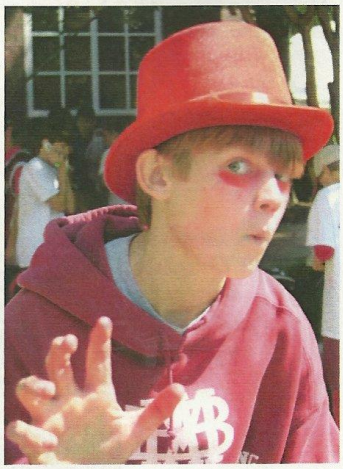
"We should've sold more tickets."



Andrew Dupuis and Brad Bennett

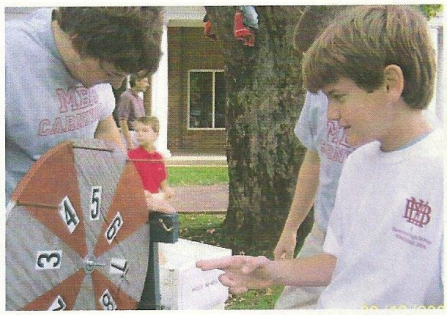


Jack Wagster and Furman Haynes

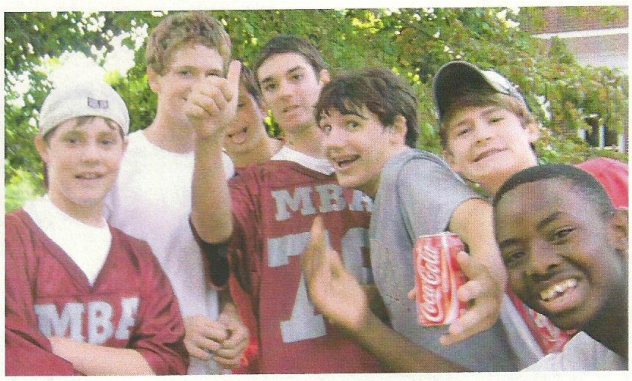


Christian Sargent

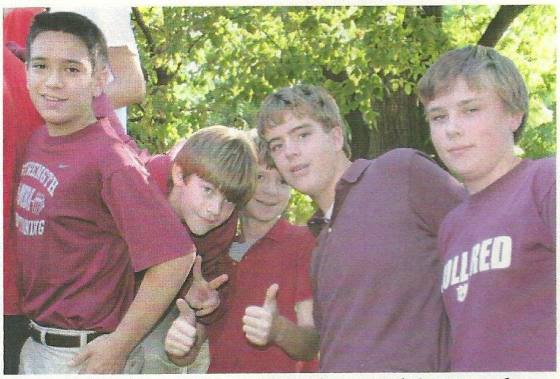
ON THE HILL



Ryan tries his luck at the Wheel of Fortune.



Having fun at the fall carnival



Galen, Christian, Hunter, Chris, and Quint at the Ensworth pep rally

Ring that bell, muscleman!

The Tennessee State University drum corps performed at a pep rally.

BOYS OF SUMMER

A Dream Trip

by McLean Hudson

At 7:30 AM, on July 18, thirty-four boys, including Ponder Thurmond and his friend Perry, loaded up three vans to head off on an eight-day baseball trip with most of us not knowing quite what to expect. The itinerary did seem promising though: a baseball game every day, a couple of sandlot games here and there, spending time with friends, a possible trip to a theme park, and bonding time with Mr. Thurmond, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Woolsey, whose son Christopher also helped chaperone.

Our first stop was Louisville, Ryan Potter's hometown. (It might have just been me, but he didn't seem too excited to be back.) We'd been in town barely five minutes before Mr. Thurmond had us touring the Louisville Slugger Museum, where we were allowed to hold bats that would eventually be used by players such as Manny Ramirez, Vladimir Guererro, and José Reyes. That night, we headed into town to see the Louisville Bats take on the Charlotte Knights. I must confess that I don't remember a whole lot about the game, due to the events that transpired. As we filed out, my hand crept down to my pocket. Uh-Oh. On the first night of the trip, I had lost my wallet, which contained eighty dollars. Why I kept so much money in it, I'll never know. Luckily, Mr. Thurmond spotted me some money for the rest of the trip. The next day, we went to Six Flags: Kentucky Kingdom. I think everyone had a pretty good time there, with a couple of exceptions. (See Lawson Factor for details.) That night, we headed to the Louisville Slugger stadium for a second Bats game. We watched a guy break the Guinness World Record for most golf balls hit in one minute. That was a sight to behold, believe me.

Early the next morning, we headed to Lexington to see the Legends, one of the oldest minor league teams. Several MBA boys were featured in an in-between inning water balloon contest, with John Wheeler and Robby Mills emerging as champs. Also that day, we played the trip's first sandlot game, which everyone loved.

The next day in Cincinnati, we had our best day of baseball yet, when the Reds took on the Padres. With the Pads leading into the ninth, the Reds made a comeback. Unfortunately, Trevor Hoffman, the San Diego ace, was able to fend off the stacked lineup of the Reds for one more inning, and the Padres squeaked by with the win. On the up-side, we witnessed a couple of homeruns, diving plays, and some power pitching on both sides Some of us also met Erin Andrews, who was voted America's sexiest reporter; we have autographed t-shirts to prove it.

We traveled most of the next day, but a little before noon, we went to see *The Dark Knight*, a nice change of pace for everyone. Immediately following the movie, we headed to a Columbus Clippers' (the AAA farm team for the Red Sox) game. Apparently, David "Big Papi" Ortiz was on the team at that point, but we didn't see a sign of him. We didn't stay in Columbus but rather headed to Dayton, where the next day we would see the Dragons play.

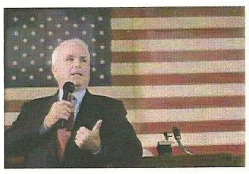
In the early morning, we had another sandlot game, highlighted by Will Narramore's attempting to throw the ball to first base, but instead pegging Millwee on the forehead, with the ball landing thirty feet out of play. (Don't worry, it was a squishy ball.) The stadium in Dayton is easily one of the nicest I have ever seen. It was well kept and packed with fans. The Dragons have sold out every home game for the past seven years, despite finishing last in their division each year. The Dragons also had the coolest uniforms of the trip, and in turn, the best gift shop. It was a favorite stop for souvenir seekers. In the bottom of the ninth, the Dragons trailed by one with two outs, a man on first, and the number seven hitter up. First pitch: walk-off homerun. It was a pretty good game.

With the trip coming to a close, we headed to Indianapolis, our last stop. Indy also had a nice park, located right beside the RCA Dome, the Colts' new stadium. Since the home team's colors weren't quite as intense as the black and lime-green of the Dragons, the park didn't look as cool, but it was still about fifty times better than Greer. We did stay in Indianapolis for two days, but that night was the worst of the trip. For one thing, we learned that the Dragons and their opponents, the Peoria Chiefs, had a fight, and nineteen players were suspended. How could we miss that!?! On top of that (I can't speak for everyone, but this was true for at least a couple rooms), we didn't get dinner that night. We were either forgotten, or the chaperones were in a testy mood because instead of a meal, we had a bag of Skittles, a bag of barbeque potato chips, and some crackers tossed into the room. It wasn't so bad, mainly because most of us had a large snack at the game, but it's still not easy feeding four teenage boys with such meager portions. We played a game on the second day in Indy and a second one the next morning before we headed home. To cap off the trip, Henry Lynch tried to throw Alex Kohls out at home, but ended up throwing it ten feet over backstop. Everyone scored.

By this time, we were all sleep deprived from staying up too late. Oddly enough, our clothes were the same color as the dirt on the baseball fields since we had been wearing them for a second, and in some cases, a third time. Many people, including me, made new friends or grew closer to their classmates. We all had a great time, and I strongly recommend this trip to all seventh graders, even if you don't really care for baseball. For all eight graders who didn't get to go last year, it's not too late, you are allowed to go as a ninth grader. GO ON THIS TRIP!

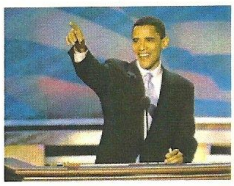
Baseball junkies at the Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati

ELECTION FACTS



Decision Time 2008

by Galen Bullington



As November approaches, tensions over the 2008 election rise higher and higher. Are you a McCain supporter or an Obama supporter? This question is frequently discussed and is followed quite often by either a friendly conversation or an intense argument. In the final days of this run for the White House between John McCain and Barack Obama, the line has been drawn for most voters. However, both candidates are campaigning for the last, large remaining reservoir of voters--the undecided. So, as the big date comes closer, an educated decision must be made by the "undecideds." For this reason, I have compiled some biographical data and list of four key issues in this year's election. So, whether or not you are one of those of undecided voters, or if you just want to convince someone you know, please read and discuss the information below as much as you possibly can. The next President of the United States will be decided in a few weeks by the American people.

Biographical Data

McCain: Republican; age 72; V.P. Sarah Palin; Profession—U.S. Senator, Naval Aviator; College Education—B.A., U.S. Naval Academy; Graduate Education—National War College; Other Political Experience—U.S. Congressman; Spouse—Cindy Hensley McCain; Spouse's Profession—teacher, business person, philanthropist; Net Worth with Spouse--$23-36 million.

Obama: Democrat; age 42; V.P. Joe Biden; Profession—U.S. Senator, Attorney; College Education—B.A. Columbia; Graduate Education—J.D., Harvard Law School; Other Political Experience—Illinois State Senator; Spouse—Michelle Obama; Spouse's Profession—Attorney; Net Worth with Spouse--$1-3 million.

Healthcare

McCain: wants to give up to $5000 in tax credits to families who purchase life insurance; plan should reduce number of uninsured by one million by 2009 and five million by 2013; national debt approximated to increase $1.3 trillion in ten years

Obama: wants to implement guaranteed eligibility to all for affordable insurance; plan estimated to newly insure 18 million by 2009 and 34 million by 2018; national debt estimated to increase $1.6 trillion in ten years.

War in Iraq

McCain: supports both the invasion of Iraq and the "Surge"; wants to keep troops in Iraq as long as Iraqi government agrees.

Obama: opposes Iraq war and the "Surge"; supports pulling troops out of Iraq; once wrote the "Iraq War De-Escalation Act of 2007"; criticizes the "Surge" because he considers Afghanistan and Pakistan to be the central front in the War on Terror.

Environment and Energy

McCain: generally opposes drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; wants to award the auto company that develops the next generation car battery and give $5000 in tax credits to any person who buys a zero-emission car; supports increased nuclear energy usage and the building of 45 new reactors by 2013.

Obama: has "New Energy for America" plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80% of 1990 levels by 2050 with a cap-and-trade system; wants to recommit federal resources to public mass transportation; wants 30% of federal government's electricity to come from renewable resources by 2020; proposes $150 billion over ten years towards the accelerated commercialization of plug-in hybrids.

Immigration

McCain: supports a guest worker program with permanent immigration as an option; supports the H-1B visa program for skilled workers and its expansion.

Obama: supports a guest worker program and the giving of driver's licenses to illegal immigrants.

. . .AND OPINIONS

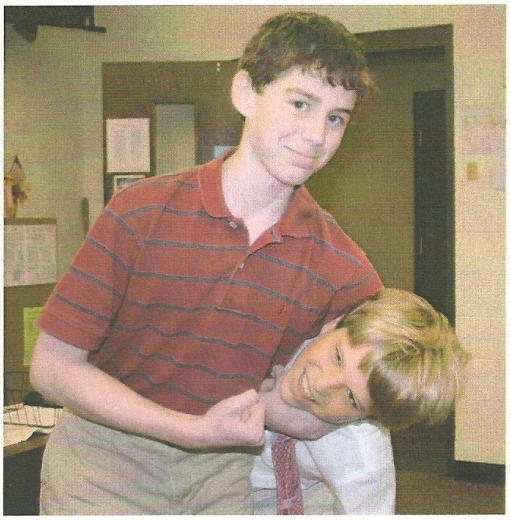
Go, McCain!

by Davis Lovvorn

John McCain is the Republican Party nominee for President in 2008. He is running against a very formidable opponent, Illinois Democratic Senator Barack Obama. However, I have a few problems with Obama's platform. He does not favor the War on Terrorism, while McCain understands that we need to stay at war, be on the offensive, and defeat the terrorists before another September 11th situation arises. Obama will raise taxes for the upper class but lower taxes for lower-income families. Basically, he is redistributing income across America. Also, while Obama says he will not raise taxes for the lower-class families, the Democrats have a history of raising taxes, and Obama is rated as the most liberal senator by some sources. Consider whether you want your taxes to be possibly higher in a world where the stock market is crashing and we are all losing money. John McCain will make sure this disaster does not happen.

McCain has made a wonderful choice for Vice-President in Alaskan governor Sarah Palin. She is a Republican who is pro-life and supports the war because we need to be on the offensive for stopping possible terrorist attacks. She and McCain will work together to fight global warming. She was selected mainly for her impressive energy conservation plans and for her solutions to the oil crisis. Overall, she is an excellent vice-presidential nominee. John McCain and Governor Palin beleive that we need to stop relying on our foreign counterparts and start off-shore drilling for oil NOW. This stance sealed my vote for him because the Middle Eastern folk have joined together to charge the United States more for their oil. John McCain says to stop relying on them and to use United States off-shore oil that would be cheaper and easier to acquire. He would assist the middle class by cutting taxes for everyone while reducing the corporate tax rate. He will also reduce Medicare growth. He has also planned to build 45 new nuclear reactors by 2030 in order to fight climate change and establish U.S. energy independence. McCain's goal on Iraq is that by 2013 most of the servicemen and women will return home, the war won, and Iraq have a democracy, perhaps with some fighting, but not concerning the U.S.

As you see, McCain is the better choice for President of the United States. He has proven leadership, plans for our development, and an economic plan that will get our country back on its feet, back to a thriving economy. A better nation? That's John McCain.



Zach's and Davis' political differences caused some problems during break--a perfect example of why it's better not to discuss politics with a friend!

Go, Obama!

by Zach Waterman

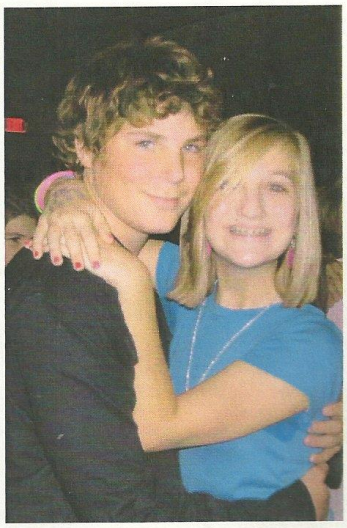
America is suffering through a war, an economic crisis, and a general feeling of dissatisfaction with its government.

If decreasing U.S troops mortality rates was the goal of invading Iraq, then currently we are succeeding, but I think the main goal was to strike back at terrorists and make Iraq an effective democracy. We have no idea how many terrorists have been brought to justice since the war started, nor do we know how many terrorists are really out there. Innocent soldiers are dying for something which may never end. As for making Iraq a democracy, during their elections there were killings, threats, and possibly a rigging of the election. We should do our best to stop terrorism, but Iraq as a country

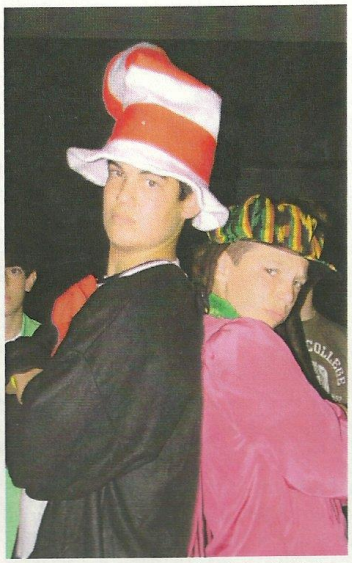
Continued on page 14

FEATURES

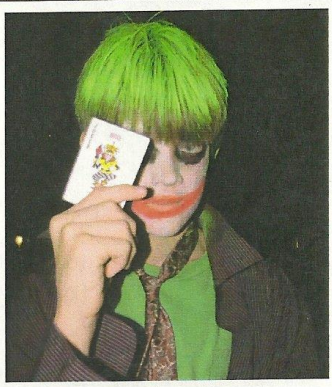
MBA-Harpeth Hall Mixer



Todd knows how to enjoy a mixer.



Cat Andrew and sidekick B.I.



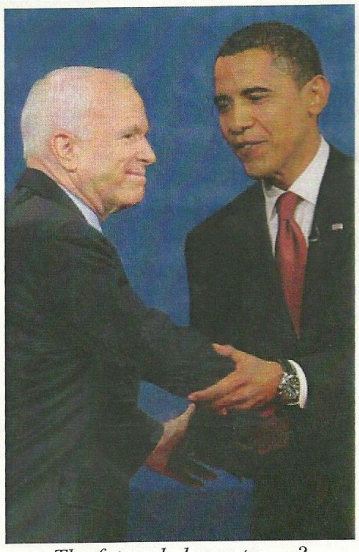
Joker Christian

"Anybody seen Injun Joe?"

is not the terrorist headquarters. There are many different types of terrorists in all countries. We do not need to police the world, and we certainly don't need to be in Iraq with unachievable goals while our soldiers are dying. Barack Obama will withdraw all our troops over a sixteen-month period if elected.

The American economy is in turmoil. In the past few years, we have heard about the housing crisis, the shipping of American jobs overseas, and tax cuts for the exceptionally wealthy instead of the middle class. Obama and Biden will crack down on fraudulent brokers and lenders. They will also make sure homebuyers have honest and complete information about their mortgage options, and they will give a tax credit to all middle-class homeowners. This campaign promise means that loans will not be given to people who will never be able to pay them back, a major problem with the current real estate industry. Obama will end the many tax deductions awarded to companies who move their operations overseas and reward companies committed to American workers with a tax credit. The Bush tax cuts give those who earn over $1 million dollars a tax cut nearly 160 times greater than that received by middle-income Americans. This policy is truly unacceptable. The rich do not need any tax cuts; they never will because they are rich. Meanwhile, the middle class suffers through predatory loans, rising oil prices, and an economic recession. Barack Obama will restore the American economy to its former greatness.

Barack Obama is the future of our country and the best candidate for President of the United States.

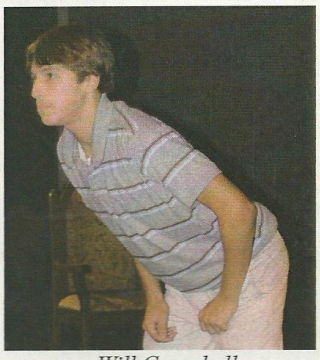


The future belongs to . . .?

FEATURES

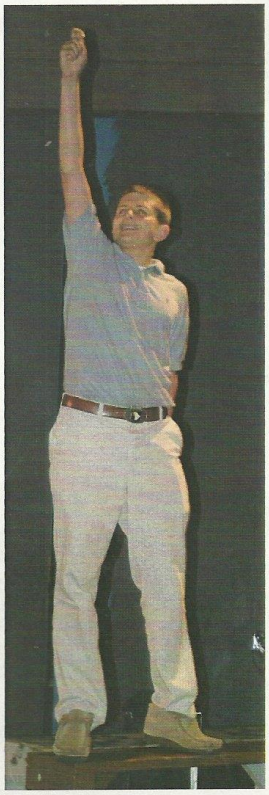
Eighth Graders on Stage

Students in Theater 8 select, memorize, and perform a monologue from a Shakespearean play. Mr. Morrison works with each student individually to perfect his performance. This one-quarter enrichment class enhances the students' appreciation of theater and also encourages talented students to audition for the Junior School play.

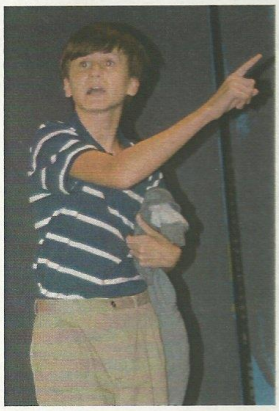


Will Campbell

James Higgins

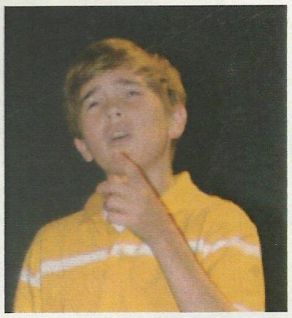


McKay Proctor

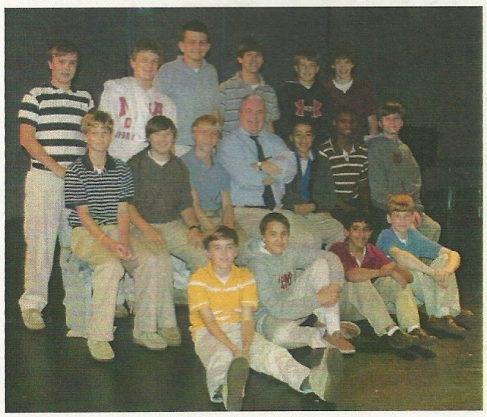


Nick Peterson

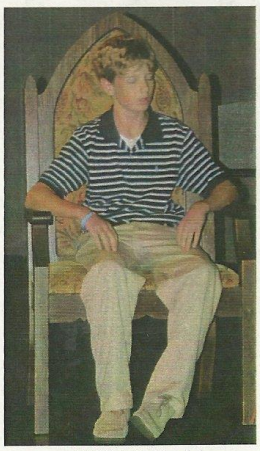
Kamran Ansari



Jack Rhodes

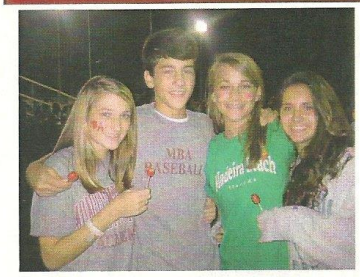


Malcolm's Men



Will McFadden

FEATURES



Docta Luv

by Penn Murfee

LESSON #1

How NOT to start a conversation:

**I have asked some of my friends about how they think they should start a conversation with a girl. I did not get good responses. . .

1. Say something completely random.

2. Walk by and immediately start laughing.

3. Say "I know you." (The girl will think you are a creeper.)

4. Stare at her, and when she looks at you, turn away and act like you weren't looking at her.

5. Get your friends to push you into her. (Makes you look shy and desperate.)

6. Do not ask her out right away.

7. Do not use a cereal box type quote, such as…"Do you have a map 'cause I'm lost in your eyes," or "You are like a police ticket 'cause you have 'fine' written all over you."

LESSON #2

How TO start a conversation:

**Guys, I hope these suggestions help because from the looks of it, all of you need to learn this crucial technique NOW…

1. Do some research. Talk to your friends who know her. Ask where she goes to school and who you know that goes there. Get some info.

2. Talk to a friend who is near her, and then eye her a couple of times. (Make sure that she sees you once or twice.)

3. Finally, ask her a question about something you found out about her…someone she knows that you know, or a rhetorical question about where she goes to school. Example: Hey, don't you go to Ensworth? (Or wherever you know she goes to school.) After that, ask if she knows someone you know who goes to school there.

4. Just some advice: don't worry about where you put your hands; just stick them in your pockets, or hold onto your phone. It's just one less thing to worry about.

If you have trouble with a girl, give me a ring or write a letter, and I can help you out. --Docta Luv

Goin' to the dogs. . .

by Mrs. Anne Christeson

Team Big Red (Mrs. Christeson's eighth grade homeroom) raised over $600 for the Nashville Humane Society's Mutt Strutt. Although the students were too young to help out at the event, the Humane Society welcomed their support and recently honored them during fourth period with gifts and a special visit with two of the dogs from the shelter. They also had a pizza party (courtesy of Mr. Thurmond) as well as a presentation from Caroline McClelland, a college counselor at Harpeth Hall and one of the Mutt Strutt volunteers, and Amanda Ray, the coordinator from the shelter, about the importance of getting involved in this worthy cause.

Team Big Red visits with Amanda Rice, Joanna, and Ally, a refugee pet from Hurricane Gustav..

FEATURES

Homeroom Representatives 2008-2009

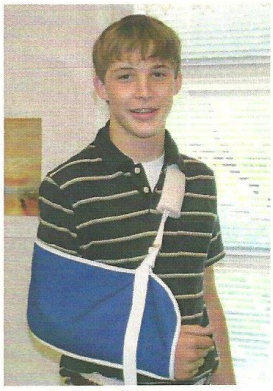
EIGHTH GRADE

Mr. Anderson: John Wheeler, Vince Panvini
Mr. Brown: Kevin Wang, Sam Turner, Hunter Guye
Mrs. Christeson: Lucas Littlejohn, John Tully, Jack Wagster
Ms. Ellery: Hayden Deakins, John Bachmann, Whit Emerson
Mr. McMurray: Jack Benton, Parrish Preston
Mrs. Pettus: Chris Hooks, Michael Piana
Mr. Russ: Andrew Scott
Mr. Spiegl: George Swenson, John Mellow
Mr. Woolsey: Robbie Mills, Brandon Key

SEVENTH GRADE

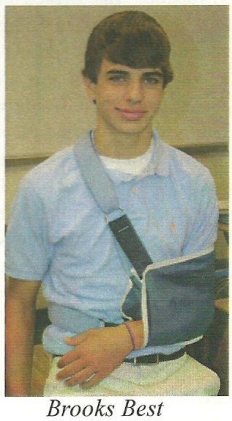
Mr. Barclay: Paul Garrard, Miles Currey
Mr. Cooper: Ben Shankle, Harrison Davies
Mr. Gillespie: Keith Gambill, Sam Harwell
Mr. McGugin: David Spencer
Mrs. Roberts: German Martinez, Stuart Singleton
Mr. Russell: Murphey Smiley
Mr. Sawyer: Drew Benson, Brandon Carpenter
Mr. Wims: Ben Barton, Russell Carpenter

Just wait until next season!



Andrew Einstman

Wilson Vaughn and friends



Brooks Best

FEATURES

Big Red in the NFL

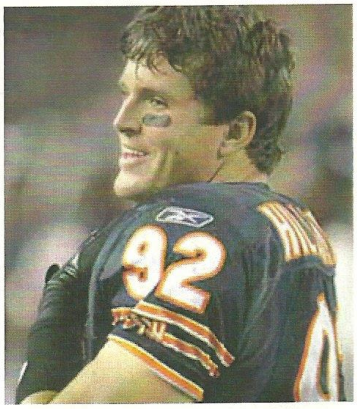
by McLean Hudson

The late success of the MBA football team has drawn the attention of college scouts, and rumors have it that several members of this year's senior class will have the opportunity to play in college. Once in college, most players hope to hone their skills and compete for a chance to play in the National Football League. Meanwhile, several Montgomery Bell alumni have already realized this dream. Of course, we all know of Ingle Martin, and most have heard of Hunter Hillenmeyer, but very few (other than faculty and 2004 grads) remember Tom Santi, who somehow managed to slip under the radar, probably because he chose to play college football out of state.

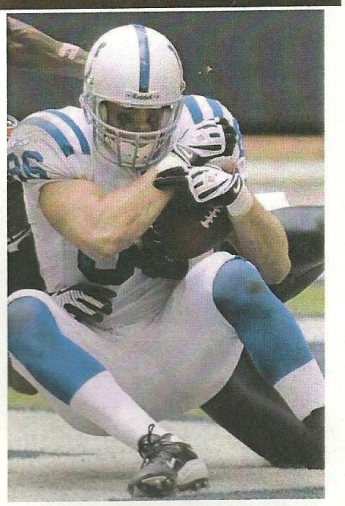
Santi was drafted as a tight end out of Virginia in the sixth round, 196th overall (just ten picks after Colt Brennan!), in the 2008 NFL draft by the Colts. Drafted as a backup for Dallas Clark, Tom opened his professional career against the Minnesota Vikings, where he recorded five receptions for twenty-nine yards, helping the Colts post a win. Now that Dallas Clark is back in action, Tom will get limited playing time, but look for him to get some reps. After all, the twenty-nine year old Clark isn't likely to be effective much longer in a league where, according to the NFL Players' Association, the average career is three and a half seasons. Tom Santi will likely become the franchise tight end for some team, if not the Colts. We here at MBA hope to see you posting huge numbers soon, Tom!

Ingle Martin, who began his career as a backup for Brett Farve, and, in turn, Aaron Rodgers, was signed as a free agent by the Titans. Despite his impressive performances this pre-season, including a game-winning drive against the Oakland Raiders, Martin was placed on the practice squad as the Titans decided to go with two quarterbacks instead of three. (The two were Vince Young and Kerry Collins.) In the first game of the season, against the Jacksonville Jaguars, starter Vince Young went down late in the fourth quarter. Much to the dismay of Big Red fans everywhere, the Titans waited too long to offer Ingle a spot on their 53-man roster. Only hours after Martin signed with the Chiefs (due to Brodie Croyle's injury) did the Titans announce their new backup: some guy named Chris Simms. While we are all glad to see Ingle Martin back in an NFL uniform, I'm sure that we would be much happier if that uniform had the Titans logo on it.

Hunter Hillenmeyer is currently MBA's most prestigious pro athlete Although his performances are pro-bowl worthy season after season, he is still in the shadow of future Hall of Famer Brian Urlacher, who plays on the opposite side of the field. Like Dallas Clark of the Colts, Urlacher will soon grow old, and Hunter Hillenmeyer will lead the best defense in the league, or what's left of it anyway.



Hunter Hillenmeyer, MBA '99, played at Vanderbilt and currently plays for Chicago.



Tom Santi, MBA '04, played at Virginia and is currently a Colt. He scored his first NFL touchdown against Houston.

Other noteworthy MBA grads to remember are Moses Osemwegie, Preston Bailey, and Ben Bartholomew. The latter two, Bailey and Bartholomew, are freshman at UT. For all the seventh graders that may have missed the hype of last year's football team, these players were two of Tennessee's top ten high school recruits. Osemwegie, who is featured on the homecoming t-shirt from 2000, was an all-SEC linebacker for Vanderbilt, and for awhile was on the Titans practice squad, and then he played for the Calgary Stampede.

Good luck to all our alumni in the pros. Go Big Red!

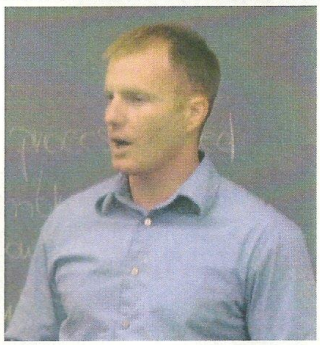
FEATURES

Matt Woolsey's Homecoming

by Hamilton Millwee

On September 19, Captain Matthew Woolsey (MBA '99) returned to Nashville and spoke at assembly. Many of you returning eighth graders remember Captain Woolsey from last year's care boxes drive. For those of you who don't know him, he is the son of our very own Mr. Pat Woolsey, an eighth grade algebra teacher. Captain Woolsey is the commander of the 2-159th Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, which contains over 400 troops. In September he flew his last combat hours in his Apache Longbow and returned home to Nashville. On his visit home, he sat down and visited with Mrs. Roberts' advisory from last year, who helped collect the packages. Captain Woolsey said that when he heard that his alma mater had sent him some care packages, he was happy but didn't expect much. When the mailroom supervisor came into his office and said that the boxes were taking up too much room, Captain Woolsey went down to see for himself. What he found were sixty-two boxes packed to the brim with "everything a soldier could possibly need." The packages included many cans of Pringles, flashlights, batteries, and other necessities. He said that he laid out all of these items on a desk outside his office, and by the end of the day, everything was taken. One gift that he carried around with him on his missions was a Big Red pennant. He hung it in his Apache so that he could carry something meaningful with him into battle. This pennant logged nine thousand hours of flight time with him. He has logged 2500 hours of total air time in this deployment.

His brigade had twenty-five helicopters, including eighteen Apaches, and has a nine-to-five "work day." His mission in Iraq was to provide aerial backup to troops on the ground. He said that morale in his platoon went in cycles. For example, the first few weeks they were there, the troops had low morale because they were at the tail-end of the surge, and the fighting was 24/7; deciding which group of troops to help was the hardest thing to do. Other times, such as the holidays, were marked by high morale because of getting gifts from many people world-wide.



Captain Woolsey thanks students for their support.

When asked what he thinks we should do in Iraq, Captain Woolsey said that his opinion changes with the day. When a mission went well, he felt that we should stay and fight, but when a mission went poorly, he would call home and say, "I have no idea why we're here." He thinks that the Iraqis don't truly care about democracy spreading to their part of the country. What they really want is security, and they will side with whoever will give them this security. This need is why they sided with the terrorists for so long. Captain Woolsey believes that what needs to happen before we pull out is that security be provided by the Iraqi government.

Captain Woolsey now has a daughter, Grace, who is one year old, He recently returned to Germany to live with his wife and daughter before he has another tour of duty. While he is in Germany, he is going to run a marathon. Finally, I would like to thank Captain Woolsey, as well as his entire platoon, for their service to their country.

Mrs. Roberts' 2007-08 homeroom had a reunion to welcome Captain Woolsey back to MBA.

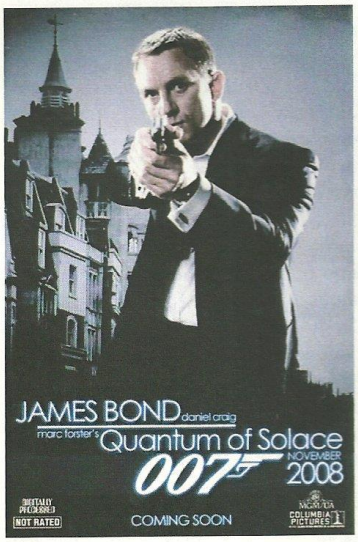
ENTERTAINMENT

Coming Soon: *Quantum of Solace*

by Ryan Potter

Movie goers are anticipating the release of the next James Bond movie. Fans felt a bit of a disappointment with *Casino Royale*, but the new 007 movie is supposed to be one of the best yet. However, with *Casino Royale* in the past, the crew for 007 will be back quicker than you think. In the latest installment, Daniel Craig once again plays James Bond in *Quantum of Solace*. The movie was directed by Marc Forster, who has superbly directed movies such as *Finding Neverland* and *Stranger than Fiction*. The upcoming Bond movie will include characters such as M, played by Judi Dench, and Mr. White, played by Jesper Christensen.

The movie is based on the premise that this time Bond is determined to make his next operation a personal one. After being betrayed by the woman he loved, Vesper, Bond is out to learn the truth about her decision. After an interrogation of Mr. White, 007, partnered with M, discovers that Vesper had recently been blackmailed by an extremely dangerous organization and as a result died. Bond makes it his top priority to uncover all that happened to cause Vesper's death. During the movie, 007 goes to Austria, Italy, and South America to undercover the truth of the predicaments surrounding Vesper. Bond discovers the truth, teams up with old acquaintances, and defeats the villains who have caused this ugly mess.



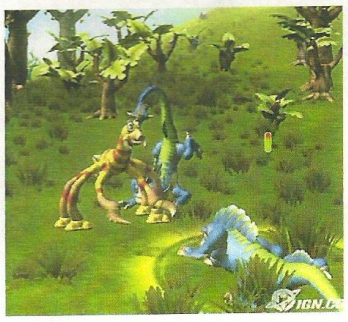
The movie, which is supposed to hit theaters November 14th, 2008, is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, and some sexual content. Hopefully, *Quantum of Solace* will not disappoint James Bond fans; perhaps the film will influence many to become a fan of the decades-old Bond series.

Spore

by Hunter Crabtree

Spore is the latest and greatest video game from legendary game creator Will Wright, who is also famous for creating games like *The Sims*. *Spore* is a ground-breaking game that lets players do whatever they want in their own personal universe. This game is essentially the game of life, only incredibly sped up and with a great, cartoonish art direction. The game starts you out as the smallest microbe in the primordial tide-pools of the planet that you decide to inhabit. From there, you must evolve your species from a basic, primitive creature to a space exploring, colonizing, galactic empire. Along your journey, you are confronted with the options to befriend or destroy the other creatures, tribes, or nations. You can also drop in and out of the actual game to create wacky creations in the easy-to-use creature, vehicle, and building creators.

The game runs fairly smoothly on most computers, but you might encounter some problems if your computer runs on anything earlier than Windows XP. The game offers gameplay for ages eight and up. The game also offers multiple endings, so this is definitely a game to play more than once. *Spore* is a really creative outlet and an overall fantastic game. If you don't have a PC, you can get the Spore Creatures game for Nintendo DS. Also a Wii version of the game is supposed to hit stores mid-October. Overall, I would say that the game is probably about a 9.75 out of 10.



ENTERTAINMENT

Google's Android and G1

by Robert Papel

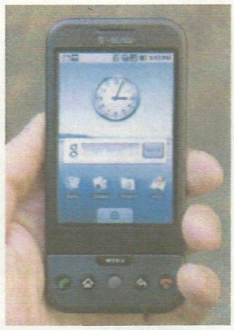
Android is a software platform and operating system for mobile devices, based on the Linux operating system and developed by Google. The T-Mobile G1 handset will use Android and will be available October 22, 2008, in the United States. The first device to run Google's operating system will feature a touch screen as well as a QWERTY keyboard, which is just the top row on a regular keyboard. Other features include a three megapixel camera, a contextual search, and a browser that users can zoom in on by tapping the screen. The handset will be Wi-Fi enabled and has built-in support for YouTube. Users will also have access to the so-called "Android Market," where they will be able to download a variety of applications. Google announced its plans for the Android phone software in November 2007.

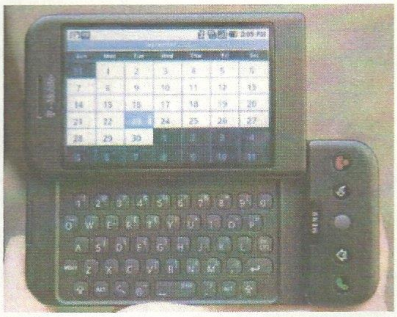
The purpose of Android is to allow people to surf the web on the move more easily. To help develop Android, Google also unveiled the Open Handset Alliance, a partnership of more than thirty firms that work to make phone software easier to use, including many telephone companies, such as Telefonica. Developers of phone software can get at most of the core elements of the Android software to help them write better applications. However, in launching Android, Google faces stiff competition from established players such as Nokia with its Symbian software and Microsoft with its Mobile operating system. More recently, Apple's iPhone went on sale, causing a world-wide sensation. The iPhone is going to directly compete with G1 sales.

The Android software is squarely aimed at smart phones, but the software is only expected to be used on Google's new G1 phone. The T-Mobile G1 is Google's first phone, and better yet, it is a Smartphone. It is only $179 with a two-year T-Mobile contract, but without a contract, it is about $400. Technically, the phone system was developed by T-Mobile developers, but without Google's system, it would be totally useless. Some of its features are: Easy access for Google Apps like Maps (includes satellite view, traffic and Google Street View with built-in compass), GMail, Dedicated YouTube Player, Calendar, and Google Talk.

*Accelerometer
*USB 2.0 and 3.5mm audio jack in one
*GPS navigation capability with built-in GPS receiver and map software
*Audio playback
*Video playback

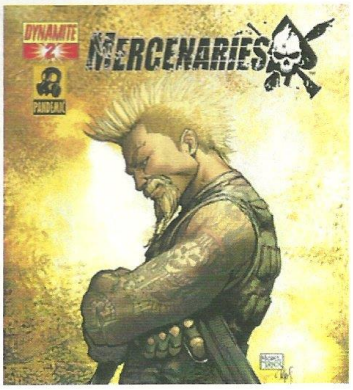
Overall, Google's new system and phone are going to be pretty cool.





Mercenaries 2: A Teen-Rated Grand Theft Auto

by Nicholas Green



Mercenaries 2: World in Flames is a video game that came out this summer. Pretty much all of the game concerns destruction and comedy. The storyline to the game is that you are a mercenary for hire in Venezuela. You have to do certain jobs for the different factions that you are working for, but sometimes these jobs include assassinations of people in the other factions. One of the factions does not pay you, and then the fun really starts. You get your revenge by destroying anything you want. The rest of this game is just like the video game *Grand Theft Auto,* but toned down a notch. You can steal a variety of vehicles and blow up anything with objects such as grenades and rocket launchers to tanks and helicopters. All I have to say is--have fun.

FOOTBALL

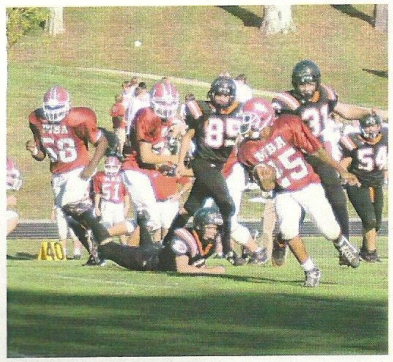
An Even Season

by Chris Hooks

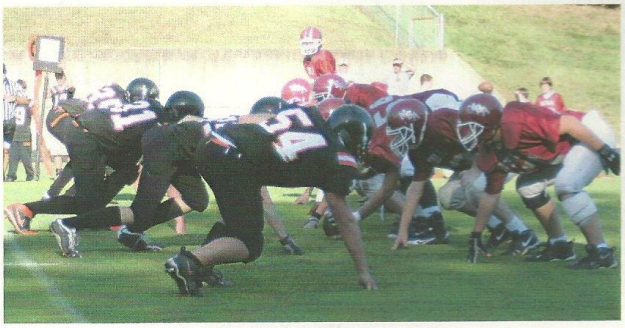
The eighth grade football team capped off a fine season with a win over CPA in the Big Red Bowl. This win allowed the team to finish with a .500 record of 4-4. The wins came against Dickson, BGA, a shut-out at Ensworth, and CPA. The losses of the season, often on last- second plays, came against Mt. Juliet, Whithorne, Springfield, and BA.

The record of the eighth grade football team does not reflect the effort put forth by every member of the team, including the coaching staff. The whole team worked extremely hard in practice, and each loss was decided by one or two plays. Several starters were injured, including Todd Baker, Andrew Einstman, Brooks Best, and Dylan Hall, but these players still cheered their team on.

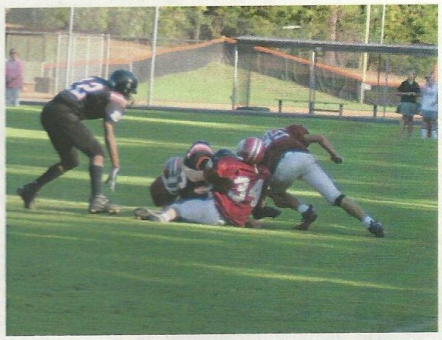
Overall, the team put forth a terrific effort, and, as Coach McMurray puts it, "The future of Big Red football is bright."



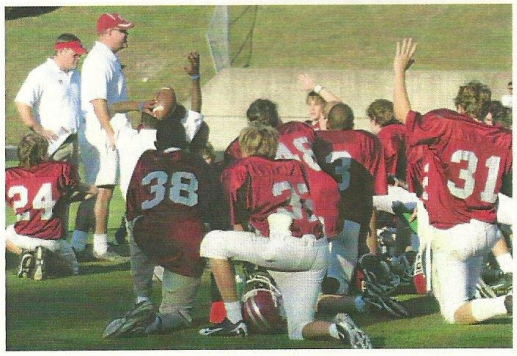
Brandon Key blocks for JeTarii Donald.



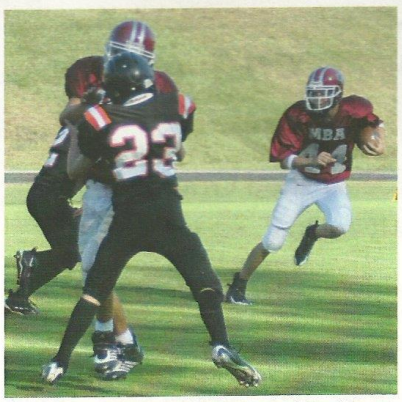
The offense lines up against Ensworth.



Frank Vest stops the Ensworth charge.



Jack Benton: "Coach, put me in!"



John Bachmann gets a block from Will Campbell.

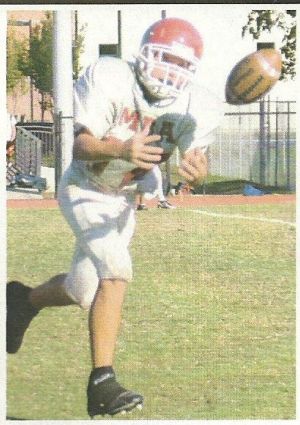
FOOTBALL

Starting the Tradition

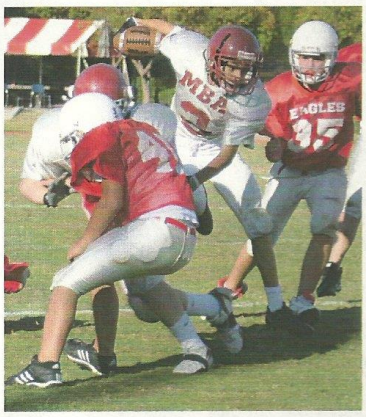
by James Higgins

The seventh grade football team had a very successful season, ending with a record of 6-2. After a tough loss to Coopertown to begin the season, the team won six of the last seven games, losing 7-0 to a formidable St. Henry team. The Big Red dominance was evident with wins over Brentwood Middle school 30-0, Dickson Middle school 46-16, and finally capping off the season with a Big Red Bowl win over CPA 14-6.

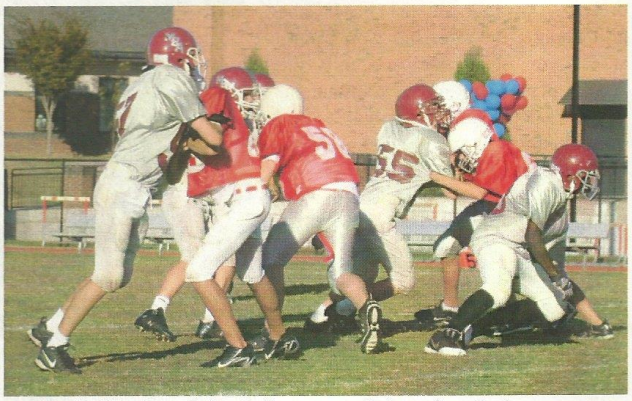
Coach Mike Anderson summarized the season: "It was a great experience for everyone, and hopefully everyone will continue to play football next year." The Big Red community should see great things from this class in future years.



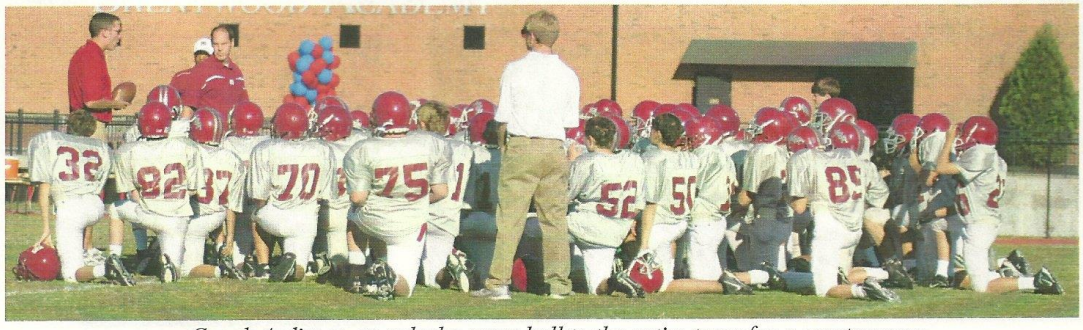
Montgomery Turner grabs a pass from Tucker Voges.



Jalen Hurd evades tacklers for the end zone.



D. J. Clark and the defense stop BA on fourth down.



Coach Ardisson awards the game ball to the entire team for a great season.

GOLF

Best Season Ever--HVAC Champs

by George Swenson and Coach Carro

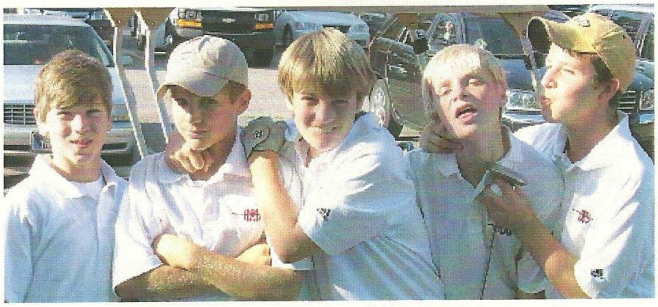
The 2008 microbe golf team finished its most successful season ever by compiling a 6 and 1 dual match record. The team also won both tournaments that were held during the season. On September 16th, MBA organized a tournament at McCabe golf course; the Big Red won by six shots over Brentwood Academy, the second-place team. At that tournament, Cal Fisher took second place individually. At the season-ending HVAC tournament on October 1st, the MBA team pulverized and dominated the competition by winning the team competition, over BA again, but this time by fourteen shots. In addition, seventh graders Cal Fisher and Chase Mathews won first and second place in the individual competition.

Congratulations to Coach Carro and the entire golf team for a terrific season!

We are the champions!

Chase, George, Alex, Cal, Mark

Coleman and Kipper



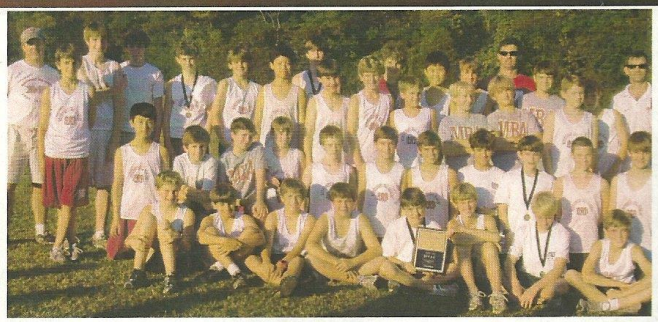
Post-championship celebration!

George, Alex, Chase, and Cal

CROSS COUNTRY

Perfection--Again!

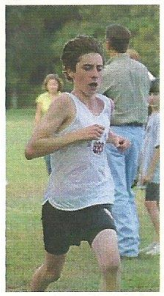
by John Mellow



HVAC CHAMPIONS -- FOUR TIMES!

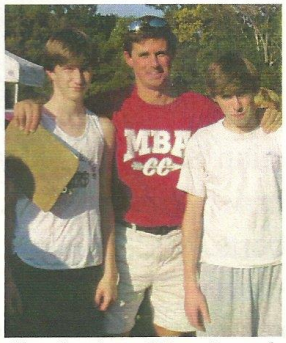
The Junior School Cross Country team finished a perfect season Thursday, September 26, at Vaughn's Creek. It was the HVAC championship, and after a ton of runs, hills, and strides, the team was ready to take home another championship plaque. MBA came ready, and the team was successful. The top five finishers for MBA were Madison Rieke, who got tenth overall, Hayden Deakins, who got ninth, John Higham, fifth, Alex Smith, second, and Tate Ramsden, who got first overall. In addition to being first, Tate also set a new course record with an amazing time of 7:49. He beat the old course record by six seconds. MBA has now won four consecutive HVAC championships and has gone three seasons without losing a meet.

The season started with optional practices in early August. By mid-August, the mandatory practices had begun, and the team was ready each day to run fast and strong. The team endured burning late summer heat and covered countless miles throughout the season. Each week the runners got stronger and better, and the runs got longer and harder. The team ran all around MBA; they ran along McCabe Golf Course, to Love Circle, and through all the neighborhoods behind MBA. On meet days, the work showed. No matter which course the team went to, USN, CPA, BGA, or Vaughn's Creek, they dominated. As soon as MBA runners got to the starting line, they would stack it up, and Hayden Deakins would lead the team in a "1, 2, 3, Big Red!" The team was probably loud enough to scare some BA kids. Soon after this yell, the gun would fire, and the runners were off. Every week, Tate and Alex would lead the pack, and every week MBA would win another meet. Thus, with high expectations, the Big Red loaded onto the buses for the championship meet, and as expected, they won, capping off a great season. Thank you Coaches Russell, Bailey, Vaughan, Mosley, and Ferrell for preparing us and leading us to another championship. We had a great time and a terrific season.



Tate Ramsden: new record holder at Vaughn's Gap course

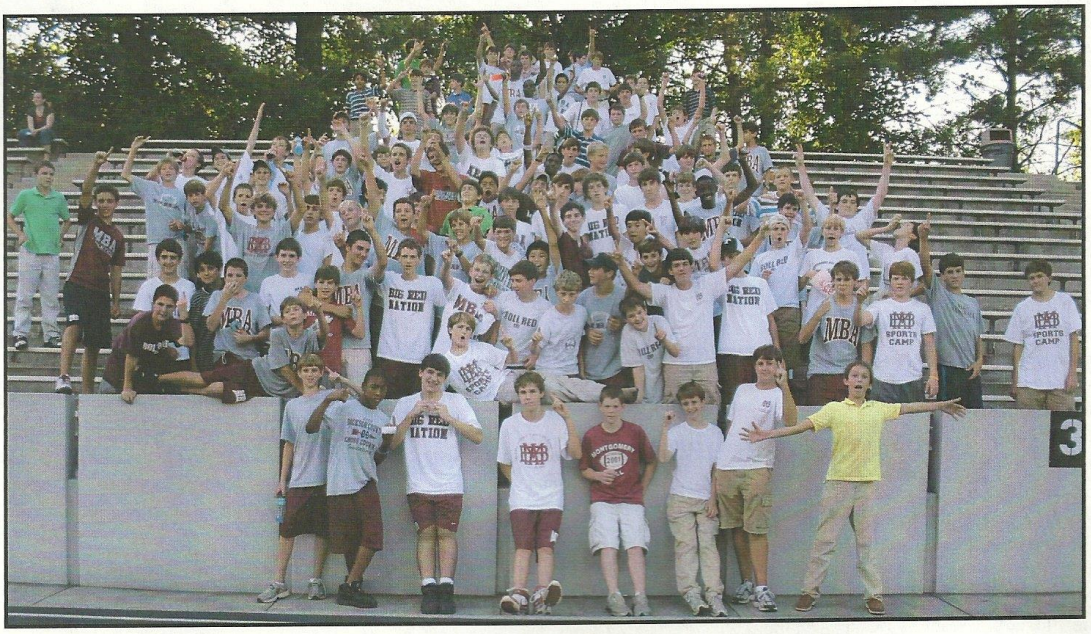
McClean Hudson



Alex Smith and Tate Ramsden: top two runners for the season

Madison Rieke and Hayden Deakins

THE BACK PAGE



The Class of 2013 supports the Big Red at the Baylor game.

Top of the Hill Staff

Nicholas Green and Robert Papel.....Editors-in-Chief
Hamilton Millwee and Zach Waterman.....Features Editors
James Higgins.....Sports Editor
Ryan Potter and Christian Sargeant.....Entertainment Editors
Jackson Crook and Parrish Preston.....Photographers
Mrs. Pettus, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. Vaughan.....Sponsors